4/2/68

Dear Helen, your guess is quite correct, and I should have known better. The music was on the original tape, before it was reused, and it wasn't completely erased. I was careful not to have the mike where it would pick up the motor of the machine I used to bui with, and I thought the rubber legs on the tape recorder on which I played it would cushion the noise. Two shelves away was the mike.

The low voice is also on the tape, It wasn't recorded well. There is nothing we can do about that.

Here is another copy. It is shorter because, having heard it again, there are personal things that need not be transcribed. I let this one run off the end, but you can stop when they talk about "Steppenwulf", for from there on there is nothing relevant.

I'm waiting for catcheards, which will eliminate this problem and possibly improve the quality. Then I'll have a much longer (also clearer) one.

I'll be interviewing the man on this tape tomorrow. Perhaps, if you can, that one, too. Depends on what he says, what he recalls.

Thornley becomes more and more interesting. I really did try and give him good advice, and I did try and help him. I have no doubt he did perjure himself.

When Steffen is going through the logs, there is something he could pick up for me that could be helpful. At several points there is reference to Forrest Sorrels' interest in a truck he saw parked as he passed the scene of the crime. You recall Julia Mercer's statement, especially the recent one. Well, to me, Sorrels' interest is definitive that a truck was there at the time of the murder and attracted his interest. I think it could fit with her story. The government and its apologists pretend the truck she saw left earlier.

Many thanks - and many apologies.

I'll keep looking for reels and boxes a little longer, for when it is on sale here, I can get boxed 3" tapes for twice the cost of the box and reel, and we have to measure the money. In time I may find a wholesale source. If you ever see just the boxes at a low price, I can use use about fifty for those tapes wrapped in paper.

Sincerely,